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MEDIA RELEASE

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EMBARGO UNTIL 6.00 PM THURSDAY 7/5/92

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U D T - TIMORESE DEMOCRATIC UNION

DATE 6/5/92

(EAST TIMORESE POLITICAL PARTY IN EXILE)

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.

ANZAC SPIRIT AND HERITAGE BETRAYED!

THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TIMORESE DEMOCRATIC UNION (U D T) DOMAGOS OLIVEIRA, HAS RECALLED THE "ORDER OF THE DAY" BY GENERAL BLAMEY ON THE 15 TH OF AUGUST 1945 ADVISING OF THE JAPANESE SURRENDER. GENERAL BLAMEY WAS AN AUSTRALIAN GENERAL IN COMMAND OF AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES, DURING WORLD WAR TWO.

THE LAST PARAGRAPH SAYS "WE ARE NOW TO GO TO OUR HOMES, HAVING DONE OUR PART IN ENSURING FREEDOM, FOR WHICH WE HAVE FOUGHT SO LONG AND SUCCESSFULLY, AND SO LET US STAND TOGETHER IN FUTURE YEARS TO ENSURE THAT IT REMAINS THE CROWNING HERITAGE OF AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE."

THE U D T GENERAL SECRETARY ASKS WHY HAVE THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT AND LIBERAL/NATIONAL COALITION NOT SUPPORTED FREEDOM FOR THE EAST TIMORESE AND WHY HAVE THEY DESERTED THEIR WARTIME ALLIES THE EAST TIMORESE AND WHY HAVE THEY NOT LIVED UP TO THEIR HERITAGE AND THE ANZAC SPIRIT ?

THE U D T GENERAL SECRETARY SAID THAT THE EAST TIMORESE SUFFERED GREATLY BECAUSE THE EAST TIMORESE IN THE VAST MAJORITY, TOOK SIDES WITH AUSTRALIA IN WORLD WAR TWO, WHEN THEY COULD HAVE EASILY NOT BEEN INVOLVED. AN ESTIMATED ONE TWELFTH OF THE POPULATION, ABOUT 40,000 EAST TIMORESE, WERE KILLED BY THE ENEMY. THE EAST TIMORESE SUFFERED TERRIBLE REPRISALS FOR SUPPORTING THE AUSTRALIAN COMMANDOS WHO KILLED AN ESTIMATED 1,500 ENEMY PERSONNEL OVER A TWELVE TO EIGHTEEN MONTH PERIOD. THIS ACTION TIED UP LARGE NUMBERS OF ENEMY FORCES AND ASSISTED WITH THE ALLIED VICTORY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS STOPPING THE LIKELY INVASION OF AUSTRALIA.

THE U D T GENERAL SECRETARY SAID THAT THE EAST TIMORESE DESERVE EQUAL RECOGNITION WITH THE PAPUAN AND NEW GUINEA PEOPLE, FOR HELPING DEFEND AUSTRALIA DURING WORLD WAR TWO. "THE TIMORESE DESERVE EQUAL COMPENSATION BUT WE ONLY WANT OUR FREEDOM", THE U D T GENERAL SECRETARY SAID.

THE U D T GENERAL SECRETARY HAS TODAY ACCUSED THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT AND LIBERAL/NATIONAL COALITION OF NOT LIVING UP TO THE ANZAC SPIRIT AND HERITAGE, OF MISLEADING THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE, OF CARVING UP THE ECONOMIC WEALTH OF EAST TIMOR, OF A SPINELESS APPROACH TO INDONESIA OVER THE EAST TIMOR QUESTION, OF TURNING A BLIND EYE TO THE INDONESIAN GENOCIDE OF ONE THIRD OF THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE, AN OPPRESSION WHICH STILL CONTINUES TODAY. "AFTER SIXTEEN LONG YEARS, THE EAST TIMORESE HAVE NOT ACCEPTED INDONESIAN COLONISATION", THE GENERAL SECRETARY SAID.

SENATOR VICKI BOURNE THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESPERSON, SUPPORTS THE TIMORESE DEMOCRATIC UNION (U D T) POSITION AND CHALLENGES THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT AND LIBERAL/NATIONAL COALITION NOT TO HAVE DOUBLE STANDARDS REGARDING EAST TIMOR. OTHER PROMINENT AUSTRALIANS HAVE ALSO VOICED THIS VIEW, AS THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY BECOMES MORE AWARE OF THE TRUTH RELATING TO EAST TIMOR.

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COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROGRAM - LEE NIGHTINGALE (07) 3754490 A/H.

AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS - SENATOR VICKI BOURNE (02) 2473377 B/H (SYDNEY), (06) 2773820 B/H (CANBERRA).